

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. *(Canceled)*

2. *(Currently Amended)* An image forming apparatus comprising:
 - a plurality of image forming units that form images and overlap the formed images onto a transfer material;
 - a plurality of scanners that form images in said plurality of image forming units respectively;
 - a first controller that has a first mode in which said plurality of scanners are driven in synchronism with each other to carry out image formation by said plurality of image forming units, and a second mode in which at least one of said plurality of scanners is driven independently to carry out image formation by at least one of said image forming units, said first controller causing said plurality of, while the image formation is being carried out in the second mode, all the scanners not being used for the image formation in the first second mode to be driven independently of the at least one of the plurality of scanners being used for while the image formation is being carried out in the second mode; and
 - a second controller that switches said plurality of scanners to be driven in the first mode from the second mode, to carry out the image formation in the first mode, after the image formation in the second mode is completed.

3. *(Previously Presented)* An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the image formation in the second mode is monochromatic image formation, and the image formation in the first mode is image formation in a plurality of colors.

4. *(Previously Presented)* An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said first controller starts a preparation for applying high voltage to at least one of said image forming units that is not being used for the image formation in the second mode.

5. *(Canceled)*

6. *(Previously Presented)* An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said second controller synchronizes said plurality of scanners after the image formation in the second mode is completed.

7-8. *(Canceled)*

9. *(Currently Amended)* A method of controlling an image forming apparatus having a plurality of image forming units that form images and overlap the formed images onto a transfer material, and a plurality of scanners that form images in said plurality of image forming units respectively, wherein said plurality of scanners are driven in synchronism with each other to carry out image formation by said plurality of image forming units in a first mode and at least one of said plurality of scanners is driven ~~independently~~ to carry out image formation by at least one of said image forming units in a second mode, the method comprising:

a first control step of causing ~~said plurality of~~, while the image formation is being carried out in the second mode, all the scanners not being used for the image formation in the first second mode to be driven independently of the at least one of the plurality of scanners being used for the while image formation ~~is being carried out~~ in the second mode; and

a second control step of switching the plurality of scanners to be driven in the first mode from the second mode, to carry out the image formation in the first mode, after the image formation in the second mode is completed.

10. *(Previously Presented)* A method of controlling an image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the image formation in the second mode is monochromatic image formation, and the image formation in the first mode is image formation in a plurality of colors.

11. *(Previously Presented)* A method of controlling the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said first control step comprises starting a preparation for applying high voltage to at least one of the image forming units that is not being used for the image formation in the second mode.

12. *(Canceled)*

13. *(Previously Presented)* A method of controlling an image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said second control step comprises synchronizing the plurality of scanners after the image formation in the second mode is completed.

14. *(Canceled)*